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# India

Post: New Delhi

# Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Outbreaks in Kerala and Chandigarh

# **Report Categories:**

Poultry and Products Pest/Disease Occurrences

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# **Report Highlights:**

On November 25, 2014, India reported an outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 to the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), and sent notifications through December 2014. The outbreak was detected in a rural backyard duck farm in the Alappuzha and Kottayam districts of Kerala. On December 18, 2014, India also notified an additional HPAI outbreak at Sukhna lake in Chandigarh. The central government issued an advisory to Kerala and Chandigarh to contain the outbreak.

#### **General Information:**

On November 25, 2014, India reported an outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 to the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), and sent notifications through December 2014. The outbreak was detected in a rural backyard duck farm in the Alappuzha and Kottayam districts of Kerala. On December 17, 2014, India's notification for Kerala reported that 369,374 birds have been culled, 387,928 birds are considered susceptible, and 18,554 birds are dead. Per media reports and Post contacts, the outbreak has caused low poultry and poultry product demand and declining prices. On December 18, 2014, India also notified an additional HPAI outbreak at Sukhna lake in Chandigarh. The notification reported that 22 birds were dead and 100 birds are considered susceptible. The central government issued an advisory to Kerala and Chandigarh to contain the outbreak.

# **Background**

On November 25, 2014, India reported an outbreak of HPAI H5N1 to the OIE, and sent notifications through December 2014. The outbreak was detected in a rural backyard duck farm in the Alappuzha and Kottayam districts of Kerala, as well as in Chandigarh, a Union Territory in northern India. India's notification for Kerala reported that 369,374 birds have been culled, 387,928 birds are considered susceptible, and 18,554 birds are dead. The state government of Kerala noted it would follow the 2012 Action Plan on Prevention, Control and Containment of Avian Influenza, which includes culling birds within one kilometer radius of the infected areas. Per media reports, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu have imposed a ban on poultry and poultry products of Kerala. The media also noted that the government of Kerala will provide between 75 and 150 rupees to poultry farmers for each culled bird. On December 18, 2014, India also notified an additional HPAI outbreak at Sukhna lake in Chandigarh. The notification reported that 22 birds were dead and 100 birds are considered susceptible.

India has had a series of avian influenza outbreaks in 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2014. The last avian influenza outbreak was detected in February 2014 (Please see <u>IN4015</u>). During these outbreaks, India followed a standard disease containment protocol.

# Market Impact

According to the Ministry of Agriculture, in 2011-2012 (April-March) the state of Kerala produced 184,000 MT of poultry meat and 1.7 billion eggs. Although Kerala contributes seven and three percent of total Indian poultry meat and egg production (See table 1 and 2 below), in order to meet high demand, Kerala also purchases poultry meat and eggs from Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, two of India's major producers. In 2011-12, the states of Punjab and Haryana, which share Chandigarh as their capital, together produced 403,000 MT of poultry meat and 7.7 billion eggs.

The chicken industry in Kerala was affected by the recent HPAI outbreak. Per media reports and Post contacts, poultry meat and egg demand and prices declined in Kerala. Although it is unclear whether the HPAI outbreak has been officially contained, in December 2014 media reports noted that the government of Kerala lifted all restrictions on poultry sales. In Chandigarh, reportedly the outbreak was

localized around Sukhna lake, which is not a significant egg and chicken meat producing area. To date, there have been no reports of any significant market impact in the surrounding area.

Table 1. India: 2011-2012 (April-March) Poultry Meat and Egg Production

| State             | Poultry Meat              |                                    | Eggs                |                                       |
|-------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------|
|                   | Quantity<br>(1,000<br>MT) | % Share of Total Indian Production | Quantity (millions) | % Share of Total<br>Indian Production |
| Andhra<br>Pradesh | 446                       | 18                                 | 21,210              | 32                                    |
| Haryana           | 324                       | 13                                 | 4,114               | 6                                     |
| Karnataka         | 38                        | 2                                  | 3,470               | 5                                     |
| Kerala            | 184                       | 7                                  | 1,705               | 3                                     |
| Maharashtra       | 346                       | 14                                 | 4,386               | 7                                     |
| Odisha            | 62                        | 2                                  | 2,301               | 3                                     |
| Punjab            | 79                        | 3                                  | 3,603               | 5                                     |
| Tamil Nadu        | 350                       | 14                                 | 11,852              | 18                                    |
| Uttar Pradesh     | 175                       | 7                                  | 1,608               | 2                                     |
| West Bengal       | 301                       | 12                                 | 4,343               | 7                                     |
| Total             | 2,483                     | -                                  | 66,450              | -                                     |

Source: Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture

Table 2. India: 2011-2012 (July-June) Average Monthly Per Capita Chicken Meat and Egg

| Consumption    |           |           |       |       |  |  |  |
|----------------|-----------|-----------|-------|-------|--|--|--|
| State          | Chicken I | Meat (kg) | Eggs  |       |  |  |  |
| State          | Rural     | Urban     | Rural | Urban |  |  |  |
| Andhra Pradesh | 0.49      | 0.44      | 4.705 | 5.271 |  |  |  |
| Goa            | 0.35      | 0.50      | 4.879 | 6.386 |  |  |  |
| Haryana        | 0.06      | 0.06      | 0.737 | 1.815 |  |  |  |
| Karnataka      | 0.37      | 0.43      | 2.391 | 3.416 |  |  |  |
| Kerala         | 0.34      | 0.44      | 4.253 | 5.042 |  |  |  |
| Maharashtra    | 0.21      | 0.27      | 1.774 | 3.409 |  |  |  |
| Odisha         | 0.10      | 0.11      | 1.335 | 1.863 |  |  |  |
| Punjab         | 0.05      | 0.09      | 0.669 | 1.261 |  |  |  |
| Tamil Nadu     | 0.36      | 0.39      | 3.615 | 5.165 |  |  |  |
| Uttar Pradesh  | 0.06      | 0.08      | 0.861 | 1.944 |  |  |  |
| West Bengal    | 0.18      | 0.32      | 4.615 | 6.169 |  |  |  |
| All India      | 0.18      | 0.24      | 1.937 | 3.18  |  |  |  |

Source: National Sample Survey Report (68<sup>th</sup> Round), Government of India.